Letter CO 3

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Tel: (604) 852-1335

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I would like to talk on the threat of flooding in Sumas and the SE2 site, such referenced in the SEIS.

I own the Duty Free store on the Canadian side of the border, located 200 feet North of the border and 100 feet East of the CPR tracks. In 1990 and 1991 there was severe flooding in Sumas, caused by an early snowfall in November, then warm weather and heavy rains. The result was 3 feet of water in Sumas, roads were closed, railway tracks were washed out, and our business was closed for 4 days. The biggest flood threat is the potential of the Nooksack River eroding south of Everson and connecting to the head of Johnson Creek.

I would like to read a letter from David Sellars of the Canadian Water Management Consultants that details the Nooksack River problems. 1

To eliminate the potential problems of the Nooksack River flooding into Sumas, the Nooksack River must be dredged from the river mouth to Deming, a major project that requires approval from a number of government agencies. This was proposed after the 1990 flood and at this time nothing has happened.

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DUTY FREE SHOP INC

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The second flood threat is the Fraser River. In the spring of 1999 the Fraser River was close to flood stage. If flooding had occurred, floodwaters would have entered Sumas Prairie at the Barrowtown Pump Station and flooded Sumas Prairie to the city of Sumas to a depth of 5 – 10 feet.

1

In closing, SE2 should not be built in Sumas. Build the plant in California, or if their environmental laws are too strict, build your power plant in the Skagit Valley, 40 miles to the south. Very few people live in that valley and the prevailing winds will blow the pollution problem east towards the Cascade Mountains.

Keep your pollution in your country.

G Dickinson

Garry Dickinson

President

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MANAGEMENT
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130-10691 SHELLBRIDGE WAY
RICHMOND, B.C. V6X 2W8,
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TELEPHONE (604) 270 3611

October 12, 2001

James Degen
42-33133 Bourquin Crescent West
Abbotsford, BC
V2S 6B1

Dear Sir.

Re: Flooding in Sumas Prairie

You have requested us to provide information on the nature of flooding in Sumas Prairie. As you are aware, I have detailed knowledge of flooding conditions in the area from studies listed at the end of this document. I have also authored a technical paper on the Nooksack River overflow for the tenth hydrotechnical conference of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (attached).

As described in Sellars et al 1991b, flood overflows from the Nooksack River occur on average about every seven years. The Nooksack River bank is about 70 feet higher than the elevation of the land at the United States/Canada border so when an overflow occurs, water flows down the valley of Johnson Creek and into the Sumas River valley just upstream of the border. The largest flood since 1935 occurred in November 1990 and I was asked by the City of Abbotsford to assist them with monitoring the flood and advising on emergency response.

In the report on the 1990 flood, (Sellars et al, 1991a), the flooding in Sumas Prairie was characterized as "overland flow". This is because the flood elevations were not directly related to Sumas River levels. The magnitude of flood levels for this type of flooding is dependent on the flow distribution patterns in the floodplain which are influenced by road embankments and other floodplain structures.. Alteration of the flow distribution patterns by placing fill in the floodplain south of the border is likely to impact flood levels north of the border in Canada.

Because of the complex nature of the Nooksack River overflow, it is not possible to carry out a conventional flood frequency analysis to estimate the 100-year flood. Furthermore, as noted in Sellars et al, 1991a, "it appears that since the cessation of gravel mining in the Nooksack River in 1976, substantial gravel aggradation has occurred which has probably caused increased water levels at Everson and increased the magnitude and frequency of overflows into the Sumas River Basin".

If you require additional information, I would be pleased to be referred to in this matter.

Yours truly,

CDN WATER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS INC.

C. David Sellars, P.Eng.
Operations Manager

REFERENCES

Sellars, C. D. and Buchko, M 1989, **Floodplain Management Plan Engineering Studies**. Report to the District of Abbotsford, Klohn Leonoff, Richmond, BC

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